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ABSTRACT

Two-way interactive television (ITV) can broaden the variety of instructional programs available to students, ease the logistical problems of teacher inservice, provide new services to community members, and sometimes be a magnet for the collaboration of business and education. This special report, third in a series, examines the technology, programming, costs interactive classrooms, and advantages and disadvantages of ITV for public school classrooms and community services. Teachers are the key to whether a system will grow or wither. Teacher enthusiasm, training, and inclusion in planning and implementation are crucial. Research indicates that planning for an ITV system increases cooperation among school districts, but that ITV has no effect on the effectiveness of teachers and does not dramatically affect the learning outcomes of students. ITV does, however: (1) increase cooperation and sharing of expertise and resources among districts; (2) permit expanded curriculum; and (3) enhance community education programs. Twelve substantial appendices describe "Star School" legislation, several ITV cooperative programs in Minnesota and New York, instruction available by satellite, a New York State distance learning project, and an evaluation of the Minnesota ITV program. A glossary of technical terms and a list of 24 references are included. (DHP)

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